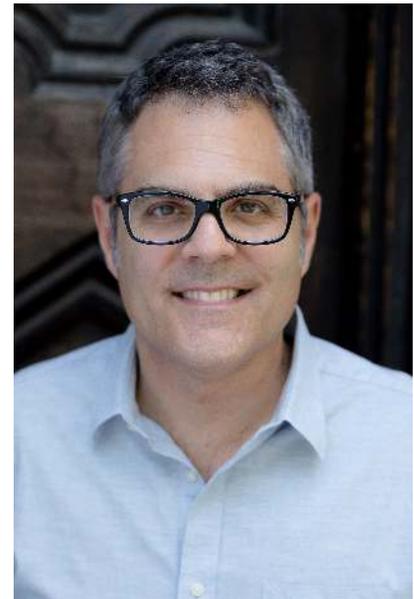


Michael Anthony (born **Michael Anthony Paolicelli**) is an American author, inspirational speaker, podcaster, founder and CEO of [Courage Matters, LLC](#), and senior pastor at [Genesis Church in York, Pennsylvania](#). He uses his first and middle names for simplicity.

His first book, *A Call for Courage: Living with Power, Truth, and Love In An Age of Intolerance and Fear* (Thomas Nelson Publishers) was released in 2018 where he uses the terms “courageous humility,” “humble courage,” and the “Nighttime Bible Reading Society,” which he coined and reflect key aspects of his [worldview](#). He is also the creator of the *Courageous Life Motivational Planner*, to be released in March, 2019.

He is a critic of what he believes to be conservative evangelical arrogance that has driven many people away from Christ rather than toward him.¹ Himself a conservative evangelical Christian, Anthony believes that the bulk of American church is in need of a “second reformation” where truth and love are embraced and delivered equally and unapologetically.²



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BIOGRAPHY

Anthony was born in [West Hempstead, Long Island](#) (New York state). He survived multiple brushes with death, including a battle with cancer, and survived several kidnapping/luring attempts as a child. He was estranged from his father for much of his life before reuniting and reconciling with him. An extensive traveler, he has spoken to audiences on four continents.

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/pastor-actions-of-many-christians-today-would-frighten-jesus>;

² <https://www.christianpost.com/news/america-needs-its-own-martin-luther.html>



Discouraged and on the verge of rejecting English as his undergraduate college major at Rutgers College, Anthony was encouraged by a classmate to take a graduate level advanced persuasive writing workshop during his sophomore year. The instructor, Prof. Ronald Christ³, won Anthony over, and rekindled his aptitude for writing that was first recognized by his fourth grade teacher, Paul Rinaldi⁴ at [Franklin Township Elementary School](#).

Anthony attributes much of his transformation and ministry paradigm to spiritual awakenings he experienced in the Solomon Islands in 1996 and 1998 with Christians associated with the [South Seas Evangelical Church](#) (SSEC). His paradigm was further influenced by his service with [International Renewal Ministries](#) from 1995-1998, where he first was mentored by and then served alongside of Dr. Joe Aldrich⁵ and Rev. Terry Dirks⁶ as a member of the core leadership team, helping implement vision and train pastors and church leaders.

He is known to have engaged in spontaneous, diplomatic debates with those who have adversarial views toward Christianity, including a debate with a Muslim man in [Speaker's Corner, London](#), which is documented in his book, *A Call for Courage* (pages 15-21). He typically speaks and teaches before large audiences without the aid of manuscripts, outlines, or notes.

Dissatisfied with the ways he saw street preachers communicating, Anthony began preaching on a [train station platform in New Brunswick, New Jersey](#) in 1987. He attributes his foray into preaching to deep brokenness and a weekly prayer time with a friend. When at [Moody Graduate School](#), Anthony led a team of students, helping them effectively preach in the Chicago subway stations.

On January 9, 2009, while in the process of planting a church in Charlotte, North Carolina, and eleven months to the day after losing his mother to lung cancer, Anthony was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of [Carolinas Medical Center](#), where he underwent tests for respiratory difficulty, fatigue, and the dramatic swelling of his left arm.⁷ Tests confirmed that he had a 12 cm tumor in the center of his chest, as well as [deep vein thrombosis](#) (DVT) that blocked ninety percent of the veins in his left arm and the entirety of his left jugular vein, putting him at extremely high risk for a [pulmonary embolism](#) and death. The tumor was caused

³ <http://rutgers.academia.edu/RonaldChrist>.

⁴ <https://www.happeningsmagazinepa.com/2018/04/02/paul-rinaldi-the-state-theatre/>; https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/warren-county/express-times/index.ssf/2011/06/franklin_school_honors_retirin.html.

⁵ https://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/02/former_multnomah_university_pr.html.

⁶ <http://prayersummits.net/irm/1-2/terry-dirks/>.

⁷ <https://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/community/fort-mill-times/article11605823.html>.



by Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. He continued to preach each Sunday during the church plant, undergoing six months of chemotherapy and two weeks of radiation, and was given a clean bill of health in October of 2009.

EDUCATION

Anthony graduated from [Warren Hills Regional High School](#) (1982) and is a graduate of Rutgers College, of [Rutgers University](#) (B.A. in English, 1986), [Moody Bible Institute's Advanced Studies Program](#) (Now graduate school, 1990) and Multnomah Biblical Seminary, which is part of [Multnomah University](#) (M.Div., 1996).

As a Graduate Teaching Fellow in Seminary, he helped teach preaching and founded the Kerygma Society. The society was devoted to the rediscovery of biblical preaching, which he felt was lacking in much of the western church.

SPEAKING AWARD

Recognizing Anthony's oratory skills, passion, and commitment to scholarship, Multnomah Biblical Seminary awarded him the [B. B. Sutcliffe Expository Preaching Award](#) in 1996. The award is "presented to the master's student who has demonstrated the greatest proficiency in biblical, expository preaching as evidenced by accuracy in handling the biblical text, by excellence in sermonic style, and by effectiveness in applicational relevance."⁸

ORDINATION

Clear Creek Church, and independent evangelical church in Gresham, Oregon,⁹ ordained Anthony to the ministry in 1996. He underwent a lengthy ordination process requiring written responses to doctrinal questions, the formulation of a comprehensive doctrinal statement, and an appearance before an ordination counsel comprised of ordained pastors from a multitude of backgrounds wherein he responded to questions about his doctrine and philosophy of ministry. He was unanimously ordained.

PUBLICATIONS

On July 11, 2016, Anthony received an unsolicited email from a literary agent who asked him if he had considered writing a book. The email led to the release of his first book, [A Call for Courage: Living With Power, Truth, and Love in an Age of Intolerance and Fear \(Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2018\)](#) (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2018).

⁸ <http://multnomah.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2017-2018/Catalog/Multnomah-Biblical-Seminary/Awards>

⁹ <https://clearcreekpdx.com/>.



The Courageous Live Motivational Planner (2019): The planner is a time and life management tool designed to help people live with courageous humility as they set and achieve goals, live with balance, and impact culture.¹⁰

[Op-Eds and Interviews](#): Anthony's work and message have been featured in major publications and news outlets including the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, CNN, ABC News, CBS News, Townhall.com, American Family Radio, The Christian Post, Charisma News, Beliefnet.com, WND.com, and Patheos.com.

ORIGINAL PHRASES

“Courageous Humility” and “Humble Courage”: The primary subject of his first book, *A Call for Courage*, “humble courage” and “courageous humility” are interchangeable terms Anthony coined years earlier. He describes humble courage as the result of truth and love being embraced and delivered equally, the consequences of which transform lives and culture. An unapologetic proponent of humility being the greatest need among Christians and Christian leaders, Anthony went so far as to say that “If it were possible” the actions of many conservative, evangelical Christians “would frighten Jesus.”¹¹ He is himself a conservative, evangelical Christian convinced that the American church is in need of a fresh reformation.¹²

The Nighttime Bible Reading Society (NTBRS): The term appears in his book, *A Call for Courage* (pages 41-45), having been coined by Anthony years earlier. It refers to people whom he believes might as well be reading the Bible “at night, lights off, sunglasses on, with one eye closed” leading to major misinterpretations, whether intentional or not.

COURAGE MATTERS

[Courage Matters, LLC](#), which distributes Anthony's podcasts, blog, and resources, was co-founded by he and his wife, Janet, in 2018, and is where he serves as the organization's CEO. They and the organization are dedicated to leadership development, life management, and showing people how to live with what he calls “courageous humility” or “humble courage” characterized by power, truth, and love. He extensively covers the concepts in his book, *A Call for Courage*.

¹⁰ <http://www.CourageMatters.com/planner>.

¹¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/pastor-actions-of-many-christians-today-would-frighten-jesus>

¹² <https://www.christianpost.com/news/america-needs-its-own-martin-luther.html>



The Michael Anthony Bible Teaching Podcast: In conjunction with *Michael Anthony Ministries*, the distributes *The Michael Anthony Bible teaching Podcast*.¹³

Courage Matters Podcast: The organization publishes Anthony's *Courage Matters Podcast*, which is devoted to leadership, relationships, and world events.¹⁴

MICHAEL ANTHONY MINISTRIES (A.K.A. GODFACTOR, INC.)

Anthony started *Godfactor, Inc.*, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, in 2001, the result of spiritual awakenings he experienced in the [South Pacific Solomon Islands](#). The ministry is now also known as *Michael Anthony Ministries*, and remains a charitable organization that produces his Bible teaching and theological position papers.

THE NATIONAL WEEK OF REPENTANCE

Along with his wife, Janet, Anthony is a co-founder of [The National Week of Repentance](#)[™], a first of its kind, nation-wide movement that included participants from all 50 states of the United States for a full week, during October 30 – November 6, 2016 and again September 24 - October 1, 2017.¹⁵ Anthony started the week after being discouraged from hearing complaints about America's condition without there being a clear, practical call to action. Leading up to, and during each week of repentance, he put out the call for real repentance, which he believes is the precursor to genuine spiritual awakening. He believes America is suffering from "a massive humility crisis."¹⁶

SPONTANEOUS INTERVIEW ABOUT DONALD TRUMP BEING A "BABY CHRISTIAN"

On June 23, 2016, Anthony broke the story that, according to Dr. James

¹³ <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/michael-anthony-bible-teaching-podcast/id1239958770?mt=2>; <https://soundcloud.com/user-391685937>;

¹⁴ <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/michael-anthony-courage-matters-podcast/id1245403103?mt=2>; <https://soundcloud.com/user-900240530>.

¹⁵ <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2017/september/a-national-humility-crisis-why-this-week-of-repentance-can-lead-to-a-second-american-revolution>; <http://blackchristiannews.com/2016/03/pennsylvania-pastor-calls-for-national-week-of-repentance-says-repentance-begins-in-gods-house-not-the-white-house/>; <https://www.christianpost.com/news/godfactor-founder-plans-nationwide-week-of-repentance-america-needs-spiritual-awakening-160255/>; <https://www.gospelherald.com/articles/62824/20160310/repentance-starts-with-self-revival-2016-can-include-it-is-time-selfie-challenges.htm>;

¹⁶ <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2017/september/a-national-humility-crisis-why-this-week-of-repentance-can-lead-to-a-second-american-revolution>.



Dobson¹⁷, Donald Trump, then the leading Republican presidential candidate, was a “baby Christian.” Anthony recorded the spontaneous audio interview of Dr. James Dobson on June 21, 2016 at a gathering of over 1,000 evangelical leaders and Donald Trump in New York City, where he attended.¹⁸ He published the recording on his blog, which went viral and was picked up by the New York Times,¹⁹ FOX²⁰, MSNBC²¹, CNN²², and other media outlets, making major headlines.²³ During the interview, Dobson claimed that Trump was a “baby Christian,” having recently accepted Christ as his Savior.²⁴

On June 27, 2016, Anthony was interviewed by CNN about the Dobson interview, where he was asked whether he believed Trump had indeed recently accepted Christ.²⁵ Anthony maintained that he did not know whether or not Dobson’s statement was true.²⁶ The interview even resulted in Trump’s then campaign manager, Paul Manafort, being asked the question on NBC’s *Meet the Press*.²⁷

News of Trump’s potential conversion to Christianity has been credited by some as mobilizing conservative evangelicals to vote for him in the 2016 election, leading to the defeat of Democratic challenger, [Sec. Hillary Clinton](#).

¹⁷ <https://www.drjamesdobson.org/>;

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2016/august/james-dobson-explains-why-donald-trump-baby-christian.html>.

¹⁸ <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/06/trumps-play-to-win-evangelical-voters/488075/>; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/wp/2016/06/22/trump-met-with-evangelical-christians-and-all-he-got-was-a-lousy-list/>

¹⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/26/us/politics/a-born-again-donald-trump-believe-it-evangelical-leader-says.html>

²⁰ <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/donald-trump-the-baby-christian>

²¹ <http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/religious-right-leader-sees-trump-baby-christian>

²² <https://www.cnn.com/2016/06/26/politics/donald-trump-james-dobson-baby-christian/index.html>

²³ <https://www.couragematters.com/exclusive-interview-with-dr-james-dobson-did-donald-trump-recently-accept-christ/>

²⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/26/us/politics/a-born-again-donald-trump-believe-it-evangelical-leader-says.html>

²⁵ <http://www.snappytv.com/tc/2250575>

²⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/2016/06/26/politics/donald-trump-james-dobson-baby-christian/index.html>

²⁷ [Ibid.](#)